

Rochester Review Social Studies Newsletter

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INAUGURATION DAY IS JANUARY 20, 2009!

Americans are filled with great excitement and pride in anticipation of the inauguration. Schools around Rochester are gearing up for the big day with students preparing speeches, studying the history of inaugurations, and even holding school wide inaugural balls! Here are some additional ideas to help you plan how to integrate this momentous day into your instructional plans this month.

- Advice for the President Elect– Faced with so many challenges– war, unemployment, environmental decay– Obama needs your help! Write a letter encouraging the president to focus on those issues that matter most to you and mail them to: President Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500
- Speak out!– Students should write their own inaugural address and deliver a speech explaining what they would do as President
- Values Clarification– After reading articles or literature about Obama, have students identify his values. Have students create a list of what they value and identify what they have in common with Barack. Students record their comparisons in writing and create illustrated values posters to display proudly in their classroom.
- Inaugural Poetry– Review poems read at past inaugurations and create an original poem for the 44th President of the United States



Additional Resources:
Searching for pictures of past inaugurations? Try www.archives.gov to search the holdings of the National Archives and www.whitehouse.gov/kids for interactive learning experiences for children.



K-6 Literature Links

Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Son of Hope by Nikki Grimes (Ages 5-10)

A mother explains to her son the story of Obama, focusing on his values, family history, and life experiences that influenced his leadership. An excellent bibliography provides additional resources. My 5 year old daughter asks me to read this again and again!

Barack by Jonah Winter (Ages 4-7)

Known by my two year old simply as “Obama Book” this story provides children with a biography of the President elect that takes us on a journey from Kansas to Hawaii, Indonesia, New York, Chicago, Kenya and Washington.

Barack Obama (Ages 6 and up) by Roberta Edwards provides an easy-to-read children’s biography.

Yes We Can! by Garen Thomas (Ages 9 and up)

A biography about Obama’s journey to the presidency for older children.

Democracy’s Big Day: The Inauguration of Our President by Jim Bendat (Ages 9 and up) provides a unique look at the history of elections in the United States.



*Change will not come if we wait for
some other person or some other time.
We are the ones we've been waiting
for. We are the change that we seek.
—Barack Obama*

What is your school or class doing to celebrate the inauguration of our nation’s first African American President?

Contact us at 262-8470 to share your idea or email jennifer.gkourlias@rcsdk12.org so we may include your events in our Inauguration Tracker and share them with the media!